

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /119 R

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OES/OFA - SCULLY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112549

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PBOR

SUBJECT: US - MEXICO MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REF: STATE 076652

1) U.S. AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS HF" INFORMAL MEETINGS ON APRIL 1., 26 AND 27 AT MESICAN MISSION TO U.N. IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF U.S. - MEXICO MARITIME BOUNDARIES RESULTING FROM EXTENDED JURISDICTION. MEXICAN TEAM WAS LED BY AMB.CASTANEDA AND US TEAM WAS LED BY DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER MARK B.FELDMAN.

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2) AT APRIL 12 MEETING, U.S. APPROACH WAS TO QUERY MEXI-

CANS ON GOM INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE EXTENT OF THEIR ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF 200-MILE ZONE ON JUNE 6. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, AMB..ASTANEDA MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOM BELIEVED THAT APPROPRIATEBOUNDRIES WITH U.S. SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE, GIVING FULL EFFECT TO ISLANDS. U.S. SIDE REACTED POSITIVELY TO THIS SUGGESTION, BUT NOTED THAT AT THAT TIME, USG WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF RECOGNITION OF EXTENDED JURISDICTION, AND THAT QUESTION OF CBRTAIN ISLANDS OFF YUCATAN COAST WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED. FYI :INITIAL USG ASSESSMENT IS THAT SUCH BOUNDARIES MAXIMIZE U.S. INTERESTS IN THE BOUNDARY AREAS. END FYI.

3) APRIL 26 AND 27 MEETINGS WERE BILLED AS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DEVELOP LINES BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE. "THESE MEETINGS SUCCEEDED, AND AGREED GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES WERE DEVELOPED THAT CAN BE UTILIZED, SHOULD AGREEMENT BE REACHED AT A POLITICAL LEVEL TO GO AHEAD WITH BOUNDARY ON THIS BASIS.

4) PRESENTLY, L IS SEEKING CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH THIS EFFORT. THE GOAL WOULD BE TO HAVE PROVISIONAL LINES IN PLACE, POSSIBLY THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES, BY JUNE 6, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT DISPUTES. THEREAFTER, A FINAL, TECHNICALLY ACCURATE BOUNDARY WOULD BE DEVELOPED; HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THAT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, POSSIBLY UP TO TWO YEARS.

5) GOM SEEMS ANXIOUS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH USG ON THE BASIS OF LINES DEVELOPED, AND DEPARTMENT HOPES ARE POSITIVE IN THIS REGARD. THEREFORE, IT IS HOPED THAT ACTUAL LOCATION OF GOM ZONE WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM COME JUNE 6, EVEN THOUGH JURISDICTIONAL CONTENT OF THE GOM ZONE MAY CREATE DIFFICULTIES. KISSINGER

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